

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WELLIN 01186 01 OF 02 310913Z  
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 /023 W  
-----310925Z 085758 /22R  
P 310608Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2966

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1186

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY

FOR SECRETARY VANCE FROM AMBASSADOR SELDEN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP, NZ  
SUBJECT: PLEA FOR AN EARLY VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY PRIME  
MINISTER ROBERT DAVID MULDOON

REF: WELLINGTON 0925

1. PLEASE PERMIT ME TO BRING TO YOUR PERSONAL  
ATTENTION MY SERIOUS CONCERN ON LEARNING TODAY THAT  
PRIME MINISTER FRASER OF AUSTRALIA IS TO SEE PRESIDENT  
CARTER IN JUNE WHILE PRIME MINISTER MULDOON WILL  
NOT BE SCHEDULED UNTIL AN INDEFINITE  
TIME IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR. WHILE I CANNOT  
GIVE YOU THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
REACTION SINCE HE IS PRESENTLY IN LONDON, THOSE  
CLOSEST TO HIM IN NEW ZEALAND ARE DISMAYED AND  
FRUSTRATED AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN ARRANGING FOR  
THE PRIME MINISTER'S WASHINGTON VISIT.

2. NEW ZEALAND PRESS THIS EVENING ARE FRONT-PAGING  
THIS FRUSTRATION WITH ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OUT OF  
WASHINGTON (LIKELY NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY) THAT NEW  
ZEALAND GETTING THE "RUN AROUND" FROM WHITE HOUSE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WELLIN 01186 01 OF 02 310913Z

STAFFERS AND DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OVER PLANNED  
JUNE VISITS FOR AUSTRALIAN PM FRASER BUT NOT FOR  
MULDOON. PRESS REPORT QUOTES GNZ OFFICIAL IN  
WASHINGTON AS SAYING: QUOTE NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT ON THINGS LIKE THIS IN  
THE PAST BUT NOW THE WHITE HOUSE CAN'T EVEN COME UP WITH  
PROPOSED DATES FOR MR. MULDOON'S VISIT THAT WE CAN

TALK ABOUT. UNQUOTE.

3. ONE OF THE FACTORS AT WORK, AS YOU ARE AWARE, MR. SECRETARY, IS THE LOVE/HATE RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN CANBERRA AND WELLINGTON WITH NEW ZEALAND AS THE SMALLER COUNTRY FEELING SOMETIMES PERHAPS OVERLY SENSITIVE TO THE APPEARANCE OF BEING SUBSUMED IN A LARGER AUSTRALIAN IDENTITY. THIS DEFENSIVE NEW ZEALAND SENSITIVITY ABOUT AUSTRALIA HAS NOW BEEN AGGRAVATED BY THE REALIZATION THAT AUSTRALIA HAS STEPPED TO THE HEAD OF THE LINE WHEN MULDOON THOUGHT NEW ZEALAND WOULD COME BEFORE, OR AT LEAST AT THE SAME TIME AS AUSTRALIA. WHEN FRASER WAS SEEING PRESIDENT FORD LAST YEAR, MULDOON AGREED TO WAIT AND SEE THE PRESIDENT IN THE EARLY SPRING OF 1977. WHEN THIS WAS RULED OUT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HE WAS GIVEN THE IMPRESSION BY HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT BOTH HE AND FRASER WOULD SEE PRESIDENT CARTER IN JUNE AND HE SO ANNOUNCED IN THE PRESS. CONSEQUENTLY, PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED WILL CAUSE MULDOON'S HUMILIATION TO BE GREAT. HIS SUPPORTERS ARE ALREADY DOWNCAST, WHILE HIS OPPONENTS, SOME OF WHOM ARE QUOTE ILL-DISPOSED TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, WILL SURELY BE GLEEFUL. THE PUBLIC GIBES AGAINST MULDOON, WHOSE POLITICAL IMAGE AND, INDEED, WHOSE DEEPEST INNER CONVICTIONS, ARE BUILT ON STALWART FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, ARE CERTAIN TO BE NASTY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 WELLIN 01186 01 OF 02 310913Z

4. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OPEN PUBLIC ADMIRATION FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND HIS ACTIONS SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN NOVEMBER 1975 TO STRENGTHEN AND REFURBISH NEW ZEALAND-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THIS LACK OF PROGRESS AT ARRANGING FOR HIS VISIT IS DIFFICULT FOR NEW ZEALANDERS TO UNDERSTAND. FIRST AND FOREMOST WAS MULDOON'S LEAD IN THE RESUMPTION OF VISITS TO NEW ZEALAND BY AMERICAN NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS (NPWS), WHICH HAD BEEN BARRED SINCE 1964. AS YOU KNOW, MR. SECRETARY, TWO NPWS, THE USS TRUXTUN AND THE USS LONG BEACH, DID VISIT NEW ZEALAND IN 1976, AS MULDOON HAD ASSURED AND IN SPITE OF CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC OUTCRY. THE RESULT HAS BEEN AN UNDOUBTED STRENGTHENING OF OUR ANZUS ALLIANCE WITH NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT IT WAS MULDOON, NOT FRASER, WHO TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN LIFTING THIS LONG-TIME BAN ON NPWS.

5. MOREOVER, IT WAS MULDOON WHO TOOK THE LEAD IN

DISAVOWING, ALONG WITH AUSTRALIA AND THE NEIGHBORING  
PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS, THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS FREE ZONE WHICH HAD BEEN SPONSORED IN  
THE UNITED NATIONS BY THE FORMER NZ LABOUR GOVERNMENT.  
HOWEVER ELUSIVE IN CONCEPT, THE SPNWFZ BORE ADVERSELY  
ON NAVIGATION OF THE HIGH SEAS AND ON THE ANZUS ALLIANCE  
ITSLEF. MULDOON PERSONALLY ENGINEERED THE DISAVOWAL  
OF THESE OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES OF THE SPNWFZ BY  
ALL THE CONERNED NATIONS IN THIS PART OF THE WOUTH PACIFIC.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO SECRETARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WELLIN 01186 02 OF 02 310917Z  
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 /023 W  
-----310923Z 086056 /22R

P 310608Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2967

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1186

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY

FOR SECRETARY VANCE FROM AMBASSADOR SELDEN

6. FURTHER, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN  
SEEKING TO CHECK SOVIET AMBITIONS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC  
ISLAND NATIONS BY CONCENTRATING THE BULK OF  
NEW ZEALAND'S EXTERNAL AID TO THESE NATIONS, AND BY  
ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES  
TO HELP THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATIONS TOWARDS THE DEVELOP-  
MENT NEEDED TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR PEOPLES.

7. MR. SECRETARY, THE PRESIDENT NEW ZEALAND  
GOVERNMENT UNDER PRIME MINISTER MULDOON IS AS  
CLOSE TO THE UNITED STATES AS ANY COUNTRY CAN BE.  
THE PRIME MINISTER IS AN ARDENT ADMIRER OF OURS AND  
A COURAGEOUS AND SKILLFUL ADVOCATE OF CLOSER NEW ZEALAND-  
AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE IS BOUND TO FEEL DESOLATE  
BY BEING PUT OFF IN THIS FASHION. CERTAINLY HE WILL  
FEEL STILL FURTHER AGGRIVED AT THE FACT THAT  
FRASER WILL HAVE SEEN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TWICE IN

THE PAST YEAR WHILE HE IS STILL WAITING. IN A CON-  
VERSATION LAST YEAR HE TOLD ME HE WOULD NOT IMPOSE  
UPON THE PRESIDENT IN THE ELECTION YEAR  
BUT WOULD AWAIT AN INVITATION IN EARLY 1977.  
THIS HAS REMAINED HIS STEADFAST HOPE AND PLAN  
FOR THE PAST NINE MONTHS.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WELLIN 01186 02 OF 02 310917Z

8. MR. SECRETARY, I RESPECTFULLY URGE THAT YOU DO  
EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO ARRANGE FOR MULDOON TO SEE  
PRESIDENT CARTER. IF IT COULD BE ARRANGED  
FOR MR. MULDOON TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR A COUPLE  
OF HOURS ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE COMMONWEALTH  
MEETING IN LONDON WITH A FULLER, OFFICIAL VISIT TO  
FOLLOW LATER IN THE YEAR, I WOULD SPECULATE THIS WOULD  
BE MUCH MORE PREFERABLE THAN NO VISIT AT ALL. WHILE  
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MULDOON'S REACTION TO SUCH A PROPOSAL  
WOULD BE IF IT COULD BE ARRANGED, I WOULD  
THINK IT WOULD DO NO HARM (AND PERHAPS MUCH GOOD)  
TO EXPLORE IT WITH THE N.Z. EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.  
TWO HOURS OF THE PRESIDENT'S TIME WOULD LIKELY BE  
SUFFICIENT FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF  
U.S.-N.Z. RELATIONS AND CERTAINLY ENOUGH  
TO PRESERVE PRIME MINISTER MULDOON'S PRESTIGE  
IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.  
SELDEN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO SECRETARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977WELLIN01186  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770110-0425  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** WELLINGTON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t1977031/aaaaafr.tel  
**Line Count:** 203  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4f8507ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 WELLINGTON 925  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2931099  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PLEA FOR AN EARLY VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY PRIME MINISTER ROBERT DAVID MULDOON  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PFOR, NZ, US, (MULDOON, ROBERT D)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4f8507ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009